

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 EA-06 AF-04 IO-10 SAB-01 /102 W

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R 211248Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9124

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 9914

KUWAIT PASS DOHA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENGR, IR

SUBJ: ARAB MISSIONS IN FLAP OVER IRANIAN PRESS ARTICLE

1. ARTICLE ENTITLED "ARAB DIPLOMATS BLAST SAUDI ARABIAN OIL POLICY", WRITTEN BY JOURNALIST RADJI UNDER BYLINE OF "OUR OIL CORRESPONDENT", APPEARED IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL NOVEMBER 19. ARTICLE ALLEGED THAT ARAB DIPLOMATS GATHERED FOR OMAN NATIONAL DAY HAD ATTACKED SAUDI OIL MINISTER ZAKI YAMANI'S PROPOSAL TO FREEZE PRICES UNTIL 1975 AS ONE WHICH WOULD PERMIT INFLATION TO REDUCE PURCHASING POWER OF OIL PRODUCERS. ARTICLE ALSO REPORTED ARAB DIPLOMATS HAD DENOUNCED YAMANI PLAN TO GIVE
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INCREASED REVENUES FROM TAX AND ROYALTY INCREASES TO

CONSUMERS AS "GALLANT FACADE WHICH WOULD TAKE FROM ARAB OIL PRODUCERS AND GIVE TO OIL COMPANIES". ACCORDING KAYHAN ARTICLE ARAB DIPLOMATS FURTHER CHARACTERIZED YAMANI'S PROPOSAL, "COUPLED WITH HIS OPPOSITION TO THE PROTECTION OF THE OIL-RICH STATES' PURCHASING POWER THROUGH INDEXING," AS "GENEROUS TOWARD THE OIL COMPANIES OUT OF THE ARAB PRODUCERS' PURSES".

2. ARTICLE HAS PRODUCED SOMETHING OF AN UPROAR AMONG ARAB MISSIONS IN TEHRAN. KUWAITI SECOND SECRETARY SULTAN TOLD EMBOFF THAT AT REQUEST OF KUWAITI AMBASSADOR GROUP OF ARAB AMBASSADORS MET UNDER HIS AEGIS NOVEMBER 20 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE RESPONSE TO ARTICLE. THEY AGREED TO LIMIT THEIR RESPONSE TO A LETTER TO KAYHAN WHICH THEY EXPECT TO BE PUBLISHED IN NEAR FUTURE AND A CIRCULAR NOTE WHICH KUWAITIS, ON BEHALF OF OTHER ARAB MISSIONS, SENT TO ALL FOREIGN MISSIONS IN TEHRAN. RELEVANT PORTIONS OF TEXT FOLLOW:

"REFERRING TO AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL NO. 5201, ON NOVEMBER 91TH, 1974, UNDER THE OBNOXIOUS TITLE "ARAB DIPLOMATS BLAST S. ARABIAN OIL POLICY" WHICH CONTAINED ALLEGED OPINIONS ATTRIBUTED TO 'ARAB DIPLOMATS GATHERED AT THE EMBASSY OF OMAN TO MARK THE SULTANAE'S NATIONAL DAY', OPINIONS WHICH CRITICIZED THE POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA AND A SAUDI ARABIAN MINISTER.

"THESE ALLEGATIONS HAVE NO FOUNDATION, WHATSOEVER AND ARAB DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WOULD LIKE TO EMPHATICALLY ASSURE THAT THE ABOVE MENTIONED ARTICLE DOES, IN NO WAY, EXPRESSTHE OPINION OF ANY ARAB DIPLOMAT IN TEHRAN.

"THE OIL CORRESPONDENT OF ANY NEWSPAPER IS ENTITLED TO HAVE HIS OWN OPINIONS, BUT IT IS REGRETABLE THAT THE AUTHOR OF THE SAID ARTICLE WOULD HAVE DEEMED IT NECESSARY TO WRONGLY ATTRIBUTE THESE OPINIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARAB DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN TEHRAN". AL-SULTAN EMPHASIZED THAT ARAB MISSIONS DO NOT REGARD ARTICLE AS IN ANY WAY REFLECTIVE OF GOI POLICY.

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3. ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN COUNSELOR WILSON, AUTHOR OF ARTICLECONTINUES TO DEFEND HIS STORY VEHEMENTLY, MAINTAINING THAT REMARKS HE REPORTED WERE MADE TO HIM BY GROUP OF JUNIOR ARAB DIPLOMATS.
HELMS

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